

Independent Living Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 12, 2017

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Wayne Marsh, Chairperson; Patti Addison, Vice Chair; Ken Rolph; Carol Miller; Suzanne Howell; August Hazuer; Lynn Schneider; Kat Bottner; Bill Barnett Melodye May; Jill Morrison; Alice Johnson. Absent members: Carol King-Ries; Jessica Welch; Ellen Sullivan.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by Chair Wayne Marsh. Roll call of the room was given.

REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Deputy Director Harrington

- For more information on the various workgroups contact Michelle Hamilton; Michelle will sent out information to the members of ILAC
- The DIB equipment is the property of the state.
- BEP have secure various food trucks on the campus
- There are healthy options on the trucks
- This endeavor was started by the Secretary
- 10% of the profit will go to the BEP program

ILS REPORT –Melodye May Administrator

Statistics

IL – FFY 17

Independent Living – 123

FfY16 – 120

Elderly – FF17

Elderly – 337

FY16 – 322

Communication, and goals such as signing name, operating appliances, talking books and reading mail largest categories.

OUTREACH

- Newark Senior Center Health Fair
- Cokesbury Village Outreach
- Stonegates Outreach
- Delaware Pride Event
- Veteran's Mental Health Summit
- Cape Henlopen Health Fair
- Trap Pond Fall Festival
- Frontier Day
- Veteran's Stand Down
- National Guard Health Fair
- Delaware Diabetes Expo

Workshops

- Advisory and Advocacy groups – June
- Fall Prevention Workshop – July
- UEB Braille – August
- Healthy Lifestyles – September

White Cane Day

The Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired and the Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Council hosted a White Cane Day celebration on Friday, October 20th at the Route 9 Library and the Innovation Center in New Castle. The event educated attendees on the importance of the white cane as well as technology that assists individuals with visual impairment complete tasks and function more independently.

Thirteen organizations exhibited at the event, including Walgreens, who provided free flu shots. The exhibitors were as follows: Dart, Microsoft, Division of Aging, Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative, Delaware Division of Libraries, Blind Sight of Delaware, National Federation for the Blind, Easter Seals, NuEyes, Vision Support, Ombudsman Program, Wilmington Library and Walgreens.

Representatives from Microsoft, Vision Support, Comcast and NuEyes facilitated breakout sessions that highlighted the importance of technology and how its evolution enables the blind to be more independent.

Mary Fernandez, member of the National Federation for the Blind, delivered the keynote address. Two awards that honored the memories of Sharon Sutlic and Debbie Briddell were awarded to Jean May and Beth Angelini, respectively.

Sensitivity Training

The ILS Unit continues to provide Sensitivity Training to employees, DVI staff members, business and the health care community. Most recently, a sensitivity training session was facilitated for the Division of Social Services team increase awareness of issues that impact individuals who are blind, adaptations, technology and devices that are used to foster independence, sighted guide techniques and tips on how to interact with individuals who are blind.

Professional Development

The unit was accepted into the Older Individuals who are Blind-Technical Assistance Center's Training and Technical Assistance Program. This program will be facilitated by an OIB-TAC TA team from Mississippi State university assigned to ILS program for up to a year to assist us in developing new programs, developing program evaluations, providing workshops to OIB staff, improving client services and solving particular programs.

Collaboration

BlindSight Delaware

DVI attends and presents a various peer support groups; most recently Cokesbury Village

A Matter of Balance Program

The Matter of Balance Program, offered through Volunteer Delaware 50+, is a coach-led fall prevention program that addresses physical, social and cognitive factors that contribute to a crippling fear of falling. As many falls are preventable, the program also focuses on fall prevention strategies and safe ways to get up from a fall. Individuals who are visually impaired are especially vulnerable to the devastating effects of falls due their loss of vision. Melodye May and Jean May attended a refresher training course in October. DVI will partner with the Division of aging to facilitate the program.

Initiatives for this year

- Continue to partner with DSSAPD to coast share outreach events
- Establish consumer driven community learning opportunities
- Offer ongoing Transitional Programming for students

- Support staff professional development

Caregiving Program Partnership with Blind Sight

The Division for the Visually Impaired and Blind Sight Delaware are partnering to create a caregiving group/resource for consumers and their families. Patricia Addison proposed to hold sessions twice a month, in the evening and daytime, to accommodate a variety of schedules. Speakers will also be invited to present on topics relevant to caregivers and their families. The sessions are tentatively scheduled to begin in October.

Activities

- Summer Academy
- Bell Academy

OLD BUSINESS

- It was motioned and seconded that the ILAC meeting be held at Blind Sight
- Patti Addison stated that Blindsight is available for the meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

- Encourage others to join and attend the ILAC meetings.
- Membership is at captivity,
- It was brought to the attention of the board that one member has not been attending
- Per the bylaws, member are only allow to miss 2 unexcused meeting and this member hasn't attended a meeting in over a year.
- Member will be sent a letter stating their term has ended.
- There are other members that have applied to be board members.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business Wayne called for a motion to adjourn.
- Motion made by Patti Addison and 2nd by Ken Rolph

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.